

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/869,150	WINTER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	LINH BLACK	2167	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Response dated Oct. 26, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-32.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to teach the limitations of independent claims 1 and 17 particularly "the speed of movement of respective elements being determined in accordance with the relevance parameter for their associated data files in respect of each statement so that differences in the data files cause the elements to move relative to one another".

Hemmje M. et al. "LyberWorld - A Visualization User Interface Supporting Fulltext Retrieval", July 3, 1994, pp. 249-259, XP00475325 teach "defining at least one sort statement" - p. 252, lines 27-33, p. 256, lines 3-14 and lines 27-41.

"determining the value of a relevance parameter for each data file in the stored information in respect of the or each sort statement" - p. 252, lines 27-33,

defining at least one sort statement site on a display means, wherein a sort statement site represents a respective sort statement" - page 256, lines 27-41, page 253, fig. 6: the term nodes u, q, r, s, t, p, etc. corresponds to the sort statement sites, page 255, fig. 15 and lines 13-18 (The interactive manipulation ...enforced term remains constant between themselves).

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"representing the data files as elements on the display means" - page 256, lines 31-41, page 253, fig. 6: the document nodes correspond to the elements; page 259, screen 4. "effecting movement of at least one element from an initial position on the display means towards one or more sort statement sites, the direction of movement of respective elements being determined in accordance with the relevance parameter for their associated data files in respect of each statement so that differences in the data files cause the elements to move relative to one another, thereby to provide a visual indication of the data files being sorted on the display" - page 253, figs. 6-8, page 256, lines 31-41, page 255, figs. 13-15: elements are sorted after users increase the attraction factor of the term solar and the new-sorted relevant positions of elements g, d, c changed, they are moved closer to the term node solar because of their relevancies. Also, based on their new positions, the document element c (fig. 15) is the most relevant document to the term node solar. However, Hemmje et al. do not explicitly teach the limitation particularly "the speed of movement of respective elements" as cited above.

Dependent claims 2-16, and 18-32 incorporate the listed limitations by reference and contain limitations that further distinguish over the art of record. For these reasons, claims 2-16, and 18-32 are considered allowable over the art of record.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LINH BLACK whose telephone number is 571-272-4106. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN BREENE can be reached on 571-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Linh Black

LINH BLACK
Examiner
Art Unit 2167

December 1, 2004

Julie S. Wasson
Primary Examiner